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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : HING et al.  
 Appl. No. : 09/787,922  
 Filed : June 13, 2001  
 Title : FOAMED CERAMICS

Confirmation No: 8656

TC/A.U. : 1700  
 Director : Michael BALL

Docket No.: HING3001/REF  
 Customer No: 23364

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MAR 16 2004  
TC 1700REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(b)  
FOR FILING A REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition that the period for filing a Reply Brief now set to expire on March 15, 2004, be extended for one month until April 15, 2004.

The undersigned attorney reviewed the Examiner's Answer mailed on January 15, 2004, and promptly reported it to the British attorney who instructs the undersigned attorney in the prosecution of this application. This reporting letter reported the Examiner's Answer and requested additional information for proceeding.

On February 18, 2004, the undersigned attorney received an e-mail inquiry from the British Patent Attorney requesting additional information about the cost and relative merits of various ways to proceed with the prosecution of this application, including the possibility of filing a continuation or a continuation-in-part, and for evaluation by the applicants.

These possibilities were considered and a determination has now been made by Applicants, who have advised the undersigned through the British patent agent that they wish to proceed with the preparation and filing of a Reply Brief in response to the issues raised in the Examiner's Answer. These instructions were just received today, March 12, 2004.

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PAGE 2/3 \* RCVD AT 3/12/2004 3:18:55 PM (Eastern Standard Time) \* SVR:USPTO-EFAX-1/3 \* DNS:8729306 \* CSID:703 683 0884 \* DURATION (mm-ss):01-18

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Appln. No: 09/787,922

Extension Request dated: March 12, 2004

Reply Brief due: March 15, 2004

Applicants most respectfully submit that they have pursued the prosecution of this application in a diligent manner. The shortened period of response of two months has placed an additional burden on applicants. This is especially true in view of the numerous issues raised in the Examiner's Answer, the evaluation of how best to proceed, and the final determination by Applicants to proceed with a Reply Brief, additional time is needed to provide a thorough and well considered reply brief.

It is believed that the above facts provide sufficient cause for a first extension of time and the one month request is a reasonable time specified and granting of the above is most respectfully requested and is in the interest of justice and fairness.

The undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone call either granting or denying this request as soon as possible or if additional information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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REF:kdd  
Request Ext Reply Brief.wpd

March 12, 2004